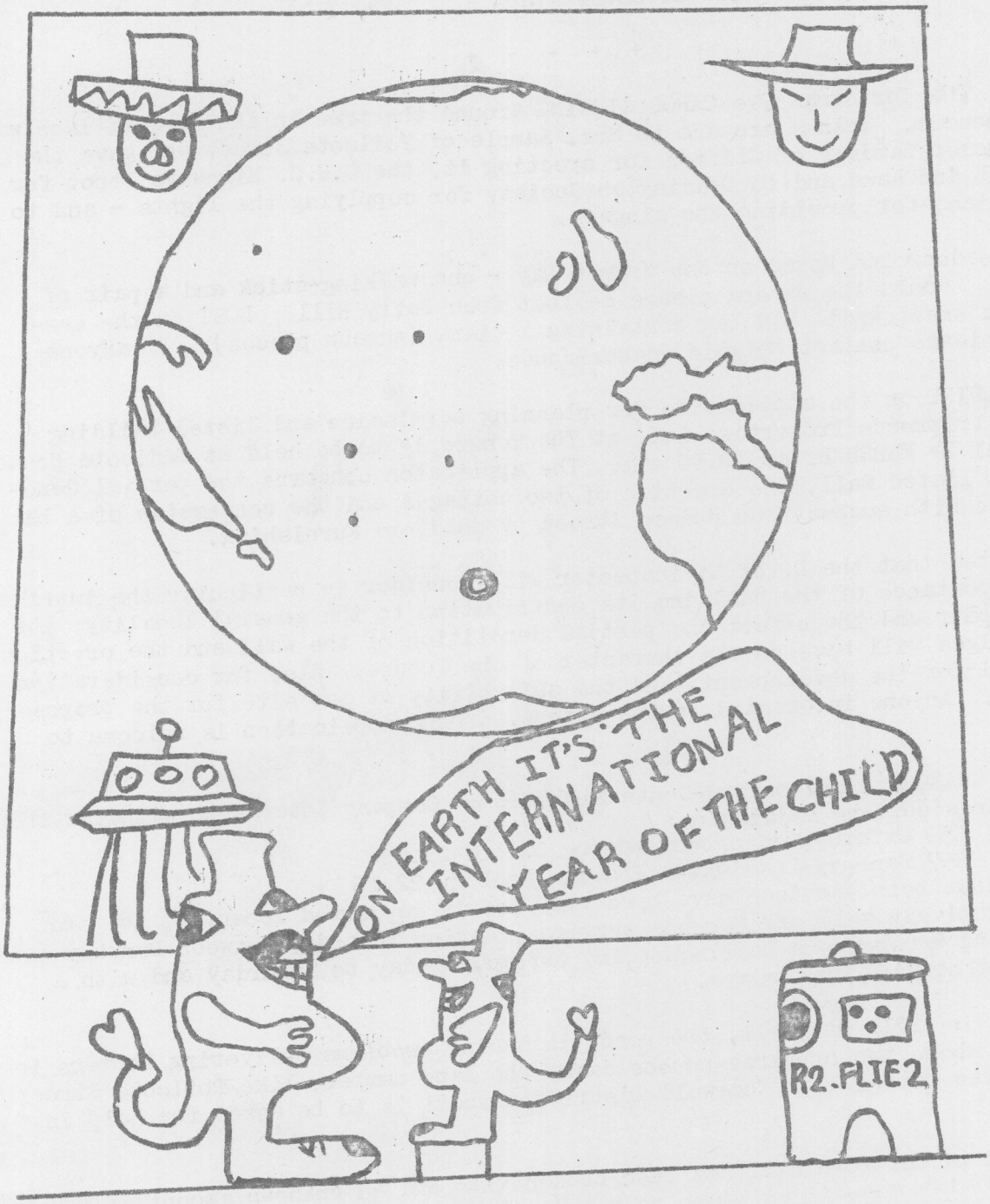
Feb 79

DEDDINGTON NEWS



DEDDINGTON NEWS. Vol. 3, No. 5 February 1979

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COPY DATE for the MARCH issue is FRIDAY 2nd MARCH.

COVER NOTE: To tie in with the International Year of the Child, we are having all this year's covers designed by Primary School children. Rather than involve the whole School each month, we suggested that classes should take turns, and we start off with Sherief Hassan's view of outer space.

+ + + + + +

IN BRIEF: The Christmas Eve CAROL SINGING around the tree in the Market Place was a great success. Thanks are due to Mrs. Sample of Philcote Street who gave the tree, to Roger Gardner of Clifton for erecting it, the O.C.C. Highways Depot for lending tub and sand and to Deddington Society for supplying the lights - and to Deddingtonians for providing the singers.

FOUND at Leadenporch House on New Year's Day - one walking-stick and a pair of spectacles. Would the owners please collect from Betty Hill. LOST on the same occasion, a small white kid bag containing a tiara (museum pieces). If anyone can help, please contact Melanie Hughes-Jones.

A LOCAL ENQUIRY on the application for planning permission and listed building consent by Triprocus Properties Ltd. at The Tchure is to be held at Bodicote House on WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY at 10.00 a.m. The application concerns the partial demolition of a listed wall, the erection of two cottages and the conversion of a barn into garages with access from Hudson Street by Goldford Furnishing.

It is expected that the D. of E. inspector will consider in particular the intrinsic historic importance of the wall and its contribution to the general locality; its state of repair and the effect the partial demolition of the wall and the erection of the cottages will have on the character of The Tchure. Also for consideration are the need for the development, and the suitability of the site for the proposed development. Anyone interested in the outcome of the application is welcome to attend.

BUS SERVICE CHANGES: The Oxford-South Midland Bus Company intends to withdraw the following buses serving Deddington:

X59 Oxford-Deddington leaving Oxford 21.05
497 Banbury-Deddington leaving Banbury 22.15

This is because both services have been very poorly supported recently. We are still comparatively well off for bus services, having 16 a day between Banbury and Deddington and 4/6 between Deddington and Oxford, Monday to Saturday and with a less frequent service on Sundays.

STREET NUMBERS: Bill Mitchell, the post, is having problems delivering letters in some streets where two or three houses carry the same number, like Philcote Street which has three number 1s. Cherwell District Council is to be asked for help in renumbering.

The GAS METER in the Town Hall has been broken into and an unknown amount of money taken. The Parish Council will have to reimburse Southern Gas when the amount is known.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

The Vicar of Bray is famous for staying so long in his parish. He trimmed his views to prevalent public opinion. The Vicars of Deddington have also lasted well, with or without changing their clothes to the fashion of the day. Thomas Boniface stayed here from 1878 to 1924; Dr. M. Frost from 1924 to 1962; and Canon G. H. Palmer from 1963 to 1978. It is no wonder that many were surprised to hear that George Palmer was retiring at the same age as most other men nowadays. Vicars, like babbling brooks, are somehow expected to go on for ever. (Perhaps we are more like brooks than we think. Certainly many of us do not dry up easily.)

The fact is that the vicar is very much part of the permanent parish scene. He is expected to know all about the church building as soon as he arrives. He is expected to know all about families, from babies not yet christened to great grandparents not yet buried. He is connected with the school, the almshouses, the Holly Tree bungalows, even the Deddington News. He is not restricted in his interests to paid up members of the Church of England. He is at the beck and call of anyone, not only the citizens of Deddington, but also the passing traveller.

These expectations warm me. We all like to be wanted. The expectations are also humbling. The parson cannot do all that is asked of him. He is unlikely to be a first class teacher, preacher, visitor, administrator, financier, journalist, father, priest, guide, philosopher and friend. He is, however, around. He lives on the premises. He is available to all and sundry who have reason to seek him.

George Herbert, the 17th century author of "King of Glory, King of Peace", wrote that the parish of the country parson is "all his joy and thought". So be it.

+ + + + +

I was born in Monmouthshire, now Gwent, in the border country of England and Wales in 1924. I graduated B.A. at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and was ordained in 1951. I spent four years in the centre of Cardiff, three years in the small market town of Usk, five years near Abergavenny and lastly fifteen years in North Oxfordshire at Shennington. I have also been Rural Dean of Deddington, i.e. Banbury and district, following Canon Palmer in this office, which is a quite separate appointment from that of Vicar of Deddington. Incidentally, though I am called Vicar, I am strictly "priest in charge". I am, however, vicar in all but name.

I have been married since 1955. (Pat comes from Chepstow, also in Gwent.) There are three children aged 21, 19 and 18 and therefore now grown up. There are also, from time to time, babies in need of care, most of whom go for adoption. Most of these stay for two or three months only, but one stayed for a year (and nearly for ever). There is plenty of coming and going at a vicarage.

Richard Hannah

+ + + + +

NEWS FROM THE BELFRY

The Deddington Church Handbell Ringers have once again had a most successful season and wish to thank everyone who allowed us to play the Handbells in their home, and also all the kind people who contributed to the Belfry Fund, a total of £67.12.

Anyone who is interested in learning to ring handbells or Church bells would be most welcome, also old members who have previously rung. Please contact Bill Ivings, tel: Deddington 513.

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OLD FOLKS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

May I, on behalf of the Holly Tree Club members, thank the Deddington Ladies for our Christmas Party at the Wesleyan Hall on Saturday December 2nd. How thoughtful they are for all us old folk of Deddington. We were greeted with lovely buttonholes, since the high tea left no room for flowers on the tables. How we all enjoyed it, and the service was of the best.

When we could eat no more, we were entertained by Mr. Harris and his Piano Accordion. Those old sweet songs, not to mention the dancing in the background. Mrs. Pat Franklin had Norman on his feet, he is such a good sport, and we have our own 'Peggy O'Neil', she has always been one of the best. Mrs. Dorothy Newell joined in singing "This is the hour". It was her song, since she was going to America on the Sunday. We all hope she finds joy with her daughters, after her recent sad loss.

Mr. Walker thanked everybody for us, but a lovely hot cup of tea and Christmas cake had just been served and our hands were not free to do justice to the well deserved applause which followed. We were topped up to face the elements but the rain had stopped, and a fleet of cars was waiting outside to transport anyone in need of a lift. So thanks again, Ladies of Deddington, and I hope your Christmas Party was as happy and jolly as you all made ours.

Florence Anderson, Mackley Close

DEDDINGTON LADIES

Christmas events seem an age away, but when I think back they all went very well indeed.

Our own Christmas buffet and disco was most enjoyable and our Old Folks' Party was tremendously successful. The Hall was packed as usual and after the now traditional sit-down meal, we were entertained by Harold Harris on his accordion. Everyone enjoyed the sing-along sessions and all too soon it was time to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' and then brave the cold night again. We look forward to seeing everyone again next Christmas. Thank you to the Wesleyan Church for allowing us to use the Hall again for this special occasion and to Mr. and Mrs. Garrett for helping as always with the collection of names.

On January 13th we held our children's party - under fives came during the afternoon for games and tea party. The older children danced and jumped about at their own disco in the evening - judging by the large quantities of pop and crisps consumed it was hard work!!

We held our A.G.M. on Wednesday 10 January and after various reports on activities and monetary matters, the retiring members of the committee were thanked for their hard work. These members were Pat Brittain, Mary Rignall, Rowena Bryson, Joy Webb and Maggie Rampley - most of whom had been founder members and committee members since the club started five years ago. New Committee - Jackie Stammers and Anne Paull continue from last year and new members are Lesley Green, Winnie Brain, Maureen French, Daphne Harper, Brenda Munson.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th February, 8 p.m. in the Holly Tree Club. The Speaker will be Mr. Mike Swann - international referee with T.V.'s "It's a Knockout" programme. We look forward to seeing everyone then - new members are always welcome.

Maggie Rampley

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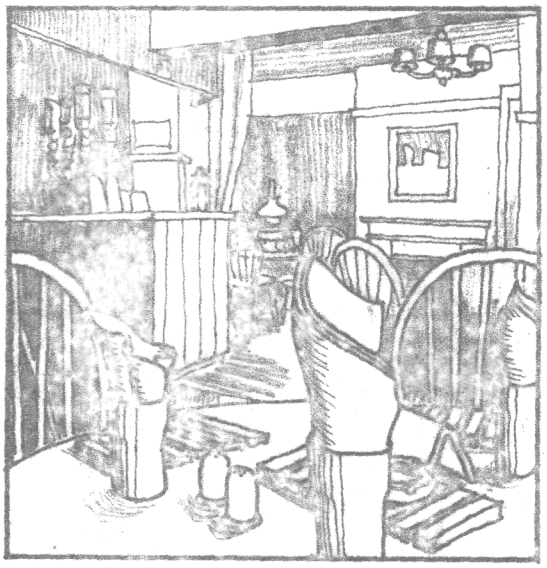

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NOTES ON THE DECEMBER AND JANUARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Think yourselves very lucky to have any report at all of the proceedings of the honourable gentelemen of the Parish Council. I think it's a plot to freeze out public, press and all but the most hardy species. Those with their posteriors nearest the heater can scoff, but if this weather goes on, meetings will be over in ten minutes and round the back for the brandy lads. Anyway business did proceed and even though my pen siezed up halfway and I sunk slowly into my wellies, I think I got the gist of what floated across the frozen ether.....

CASTLE GROUNDS: the earth surrounding the ocean wave which had been worn away, has been built up again, courtesy of Michael O'Neill. The new swing seat will be fixed by Monty Spencer, so the play equipment is good for another season. Thanks were recorded to the Council members for carrying out the work and so saving the Council considerable expense.

The dangerous logs on Castle End ground have still not been made safe despite letters from the Council to the landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Robins. The Council is worried that the logs might topple and roll down the bank, injuring children playing near. Urgent advice and instruction is being sought first from Cherwell District Council's Environmental Health Dept., because of the safety aspect, and then from the Legal Department.

TREE PLANTING: Mr. John Scott has carried out a detailed and comprehensive survey of all the trees in Deddington, Clifton and Hempton, their type, age and siting. (A descriptive report will appear in our March issue, with recommendations via following issue). Mr. Scott is drawing up a replanting scheme which, it is recommended, should be put into effect in November 1979. Cherwell D. Council should be able to provide the trees, stakes and guards. What Deddington will have to contribute is the manpower to do the planting and maintenance over the next 2-3 years. Mr. Scott suggested that organisations should get together small tree planting groups and anyone interested in helping should contact John Scott at The Cottage, Philcote Street.

Meanwhile the trees supplied by Oxfordshire C.C. have arrived. They are barely two feet high and much too tender to be planted out. Roger Gardner is to provide a nursery area for the trees to be grown on.

LIGHTING: The Council agreed to Mr. Stevens' proposal that the north side of Hempton Road should have an extra footpath light in the dark area between Manor Farm and the entrance to The Daedings. The cost of installing a new light and moving two others to allow more even spacing is being investigated.

Country View, Clifton (the new Techomes development): an application for an alteration to the design of the footpath lighting was turned down on the grounds that the "globe" design is not in keeping with the immediate environment. The lights on the new estate are to be of the photocell type and will serve as a model to help the Council judge whether a changeover to this kind of lighting is desirable for the whole of the parish.

Scouting: The Council is still not happy about the standard of "scouting" operated by the S.E.B. There is nowhere near enough time allowed for the fortnightly inspection. Consequently several lights around the Parish are out for far longer than they should be, and the Council is investigating the cost of employing our own scout.

WINDMILL HALL: The County Council has at last said it has no further use for the site and our Council has confirmed its interest. No figures have yet been mentioned but Deddington has staked its claim, without prejudice, in the future of the hall, tennis courts and parking area.

PRECEPT: Figures for the 1979-80 precept were approved by Council. These will levy a 2p Parish rate.

Mary Robinson

Mr. Lewis Foreman has passed on to Deddington News the following letter from Mrs. Lily Corson in Canada.

Box 41, Plenty, Saskatchewan,
SOL 2RO - Canada.

Dear Mr. Foreman,
I am trying to trace my family on my mother's side. I have been corresponding with Mrs. Boorman in Woodstock. She has given me your name.
Mother - Sarah Ann Morgan - born June 17 1882, died in Canada - October 26,1964.
Her parents: father - George Edward Morgan, mother - possibly Belgrove.
Her brothers and sisters:
George, Bert, Alf, Percy - died aged 8, Emma, Edith, Maria - died aged 16,
Sarah - my mum (youngest).

I have a certificate dated 28 February 1894 placing mum in the Girls' School, Deddington, and a Congregational Hymn Book bearing "Miss Morgan, Deddington" (no date). I think grandfather ran the gas works, kept bees, owned cottages, and was prominent in the Congregational Church.

What are your charges for information? I need to locate the full name of my grandmother and where she spent her life from 1882 until her death in about 1915. I understand it was in an Institution. This information is requested by my grandchildren's doctor. Secondly, I am interested in tracing my roots as far back as I can for my own information. I'd like to know if I have any relatives left.

Sincerely, Mrs. Lily Corson.
If anyone can help out Mr. Foreman with information, he would be grateful to hear from them.

DEDDINGTON P.T.A.

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DEDDINGTON MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG FAMILIES

On the evening of January 5th, we officially welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Richard Hannah to Deddington. We are very delighted to have them both with us, particularly as Mrs. Hannah is the Presiding Member of the M.U. for this Deanery and has been a friend to many of us for a long time. I would like to thank all those who made and brought along such super refreshments for this occasion, and also to the many willing helpers.

On January 10th Holy Communion was celebrated as a beginning to the New Year. This was followed by a Ploughman's Lunch in the Holly Tree Club. Despite the bad weather and illness, it was well attended.

The next meeting will be on February 22nd in the Holly Tree Club at 8 p.m. when a discussion will be led by Mrs. Mary Valentine. On February 27th at 12.45 a Ploughman's Lunch will be held in the Holly Tree Club. New 'Mums' with their toddlers and babies are always welcome, and of course anyone else who would like to come.

As I expect most of you know, 1979 is the Year of the Child. Deddington Deanery have been asked to make a Special Study of Children in the Indian Continent - their lives, customs, food, clothing, education and job prospects. I would be most grateful to receive any information, drawings or photographs by the end of March, so that they can be displayed at the Deanery Festival.

Jean Welford

GUIDES

I think everyone, visitors and Guides alike, enjoyed our open evening on December 5th. Our fund-raising efforts were successful - thank you to those who came or contributed in some way. It was very nice to have those friends and families who stayed for our musical entertainment joining in the camp-fire songs and carols, but it would have been nice to have seen more Mums and Dads there.

Our last meeting of the term turned out to be great fun as always -this time we treated ourselves to hot dogs and coke! Games and a lucky dip completed the evening!

The holidays passed peacefully apart from a burst pipe flooding the cloakroom area next to the Scout 'hut'. Good old Mrs. Rampley was sent in with her wellies on to stem the flow and then with prompt help kindly given by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell and "County" man - most equipment and belongings were rescued without damage. Thank you.

At our Patrol Leaders and Seconds training this term, over coffee and biscuits, plans were laid for the coming term, and most important, ideas were put forward as to how the company should celebrate Thinking Day in February. Each Patrol will cook their supper on this evening. They have all chosen dishes from a different country - we will let you know how it turns out!

We also hope to join forces with 2nd Bloxham again in a half-term hike. Newly acquired camping equipment - a blue kettle and an elsan!! We have now invented a new activity - an elsan race - you may never know what this is! We have six older Guides now taking part in joint Scout / Guide training sessions for their Firefighters badge.

Maggie Rampley

CLIFTON NEWS

Obituary: SANDELLS. On January 10th, from pneumonia, Christopher Sandells, of Ash Cottage, Clifton.

Frank Crofts

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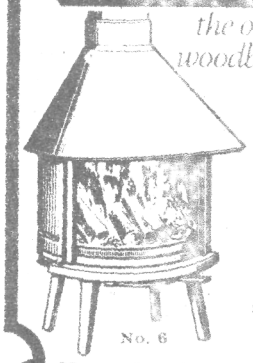

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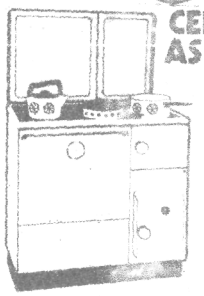

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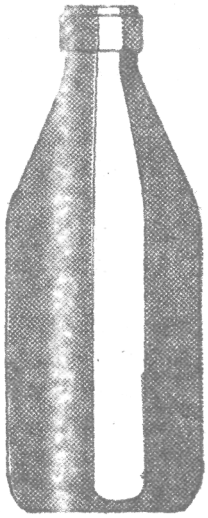

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HOLLY TREE APPEAL

The Holly Tree Club have started 1979 by having to have a new ceiling in the Club room. Part of the plaster gave way in the autumn and was repaired, and then another lot came down just as the preparations for the Christmas Party were under way. Luckily no-one was hurt, but it was obvious that a completely new ceiling would have to be put in.

Mr. Renwick has now arranged for this to be done, and it is being put up now by Mr. Jack Tew. I understand that this is going to cost £240, of which the Club can raise £120, but we would be very, very grateful for any donations (however small). The Club will raise as much as they can with Bring and Buy, Jumble, etc.

The Holly Tree Club does give a lot of pleasure to the elderly and this was made obvious by the outcry when the Club had to be shut for one Wednesday to let the repairs be completed.

Everyone hates asking for money, especially these difficult days, but we are hoping that the generosity of Deddington will rise to the occasion. Any donations may be sent to the following people:
Mr. Renwick - Holcombe Cottage;
Mrs. Kerridge - Horsefair;
Mr. Lines - Cotswold Lodge, New Street;
Mrs. Edmonds - Cat's Cottage, Philcote Street.

E. Vivien Edmonds

MOTHER AND UNDER FIVES CLUB

The Club meets every Monday afternoon at the Holly Tree Club from 2.30 onwards. In the past months, we have held several events, including a stall in the Market Place before Christmas and despite the bitter cold the funds made will allow the Club's activities to continue for a while longer. A Christmas party was held for the children which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The Club is hoping to arrange further events during the spring and summer, with the possibility of a summer outing. So come on all you Moms, pop along one Monday and help support our group for your children and future children's enjoyment.

June Scott

DEDDINGTON W.I.

We enjoyed our Christmas Dinner which was held in December. Our thanks to Betty Walton and helpers who catered for us. Some of our members entertained us with poems of Christmas and the evening ended with carol singing.

Our January meeting was held at the Holly Tree Club on January 9th. Mrs. Plumbe reported on a very pleasant trip made by members to the Playhouse Theatre, Oxford, and thanked Mrs. Jones for organising it. Mrs. Jones reported on the "Autumn Fayre" at Tackley. Five members went and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mrs. Riley, one of our own members, gave an interesting talk about her job as Head Medical Worker at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford. She kindly offered to speak at very short notice as our expected speaker was unable to come. We look forward to a visit to the Wedgewood Factory in February with members of Barford St. Michael and St. John W.I.

Ann Bowen

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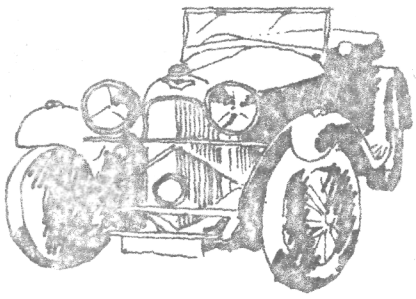

St. Valentine's Day, the 14th of February. Everyone knows the date. In fact, with Christmas Day it is the only date in the calendar you can still mention by its Church name and be sure that people will know when you mean. Which, since for centuries Valentine's Day seems to have been a specially English custom, might lead you to suppose that the English are uniquely religious and passionate.

English girls used to be renowned all over Europe for the second quality. A 15th century Italian visitor commented: "The English women are very violent in their passions. When the guests arrive at an inn, the hostess comes out with her whole family to receive them, and they have to kiss her and all the others." The Dutch Renaissance scholar Erasmus was bowled over on his visits to England by "the goddess girls, divinely fair. They come to see you and drink your health in kisses; wherever you go the world is full of kisses waiting." A censorious German however was shocked to observe the English kissing in the street and even in the Church.

As John Donne, Dean of St. Paul's and poet, knew, St. Valentine's was the day when the birds of the air chose their mates. Some believed that the first person you met on Valentine's morning was fated to be your marriage partner. But a bit of witchcraft could help. Here's a formula from the 1750s. "The night before St. Valentine, I got five bayleaves and pinned four to the corners of my pillow and the fifth to the middle. Betty said if I then dreamed of my sweetheart we should be married before the year was out. But to make it more sure I boiled an egg hard and took out the yolk and filled it with salt and when I went to bed ate it, shell and all, without speaking or drinking after. I lay abed and shut my eyes all morning until my man came to our house for I would not have seen another man before him for all the world."

But the "true and proper ceremony" of St. Valentine's Day was as follows. "An equal number of maids and bachelors each write their true or pretended name on slips of paper which they roll up and draw by way of lots so that each of the young men lights upon a girl that he calls his Valentine and each of the girls upon a young man whom she calls hers. The man sticks faster to the Valentine that has fallen to him than the Valentine to whom he has fallen. They give treats to their mistresses and this little sport often ends in love."

Sam Weller recommended, "never sign a Valentine with your own name." But Samuel Pepys records for the year 1667: "This morning Will Mercer came up to my wife's bedside to be her Valentine and brought her name written upon blue paper in gold letters, done by himself very pretty; and we were both well pleased with it." Pepys continues, a little testily, "I am also this year my wife's Valentine, and it will cost me £5". The same day the Duke of York gave the celebrated beauty Miss Stuart a ring worth £800 as a Valentine present.

By the 1860s St. Valentine's was "a much degenerated festival, confined very much to the humbler classes." It was "heralded by the appearance in the print sellers' windows of single sheets of post paper, bearing some ridiculous caricature of the male or female figure with a few burlesque verses below. More rarely the print is of a sentimental kind. The newspapers record that the London postmen delivered so many hundred thousand more letters on that day than they usually do. Such is nearly the whole extent of the observances now made of St. Valentine's day." Deary me! What would St. Valentine himself think of it all? A humble Roman priest martyred rather messily by being beaten with clubs and then beheaded, he no doubt feels that no fate, even "observances by the humbler classes", could be worse than his death. But just how he ever got involved with the birds and the English is one of those lovely mysteries of history.

Geoffrey Hindley

WARRINER SCHOOL

Christmas Fair: A profit of £305 was made at the Christmas Fair on December 2nd and Father Christmas reported that the event was well supported by Deddington parents.

Any Questions - Education: A panel consisting of Mrs. Sutherland, Mr. Seymour, Rev. Bishop and Mr. Ruddock (Headmaster) answered questions at the School on the evening of 17th January. Mr. Ruddock reports that this event was disappointing, possibly due to weather conditions, but lively and interesting discussion took place.

Post 16 Opportunities open to Fifth Year Pupils: On 24th January speakers from North Oxfordshire Technical College, The Centre for Advanced Studies, Banbury Upper School and Warriner School, explained the options open to 5th year students of Warriner School and answered questions. Parents not attending should contact Mr. Perrett for booklets of 1979-80 courses available.
FINAL DATES FOR APPLICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:- FEBRUARY 16th N.O.T.C.
MAY 1st BANBURY UPPER SCHOOL

For your Diary - FEBRUARY 17th SCHOOL DANCE (BLOXHAM SCHOOL)

John Burdon

DEDDINGTON TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

League News:- Due to the bad weather we are well behind with games, but are still in a strong position.

Junior Shield:- We dealt with Fritwell in the same way as our other opponents in this competition. In the last 16 we will play Chadlington, a team of our own standard. This should be an excellent game and in my personal opinion the winner of this game will eventually take home the Junior Shield. Let's hope the result is what we all want.

Cup News:- We are through to the semi-final of the much treasured Coronation Cup which of course we won last season. Other cup matches are at the moment running late in the fixtures due to bad weather. This is going to be tough on our players as they could be playing three to four games a week at the end of the season.

320 Club: We are now in the process of counting up members and printing cards etc. so we should have the official numbers in the next few days.

We hope to bring you more cheerful news next month, weather providing.

R. Hayward, Vice President

+ + + + +

Dear Members of the Holly Tree Club,
We, Deddington Town Football Club, held our Boxing Day football match between the British Legion Club and the Red Lion - King's Arms, in aid of the Holly Tree Club funds. This year the British Legion Club won 2-1. We collected £20 towards your funds, and we hope this money will help your Club in some way.

The money is collected in this way:- each player pays 50p; a collection box is placed in each pub; the Football Club makes the money up to the nearest pound. The match and collection were organised by P. Monaghan, P. Cox and P. Bliss, and let us not forget the "ref. of the day", Mr. B. Humphries.

P. Monaghan, for Deddington Town Football Club

DEDDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our carol concert and Nativity play, "The Coming of the Kings", was presented in the evening on Thursday 14th December. The Church was well filled and the proceeds of the collection, after paying for the hired stage lighting, amounted to £13.73. A cheque for this amount has been forwarded to the Church of England Children's Society.

The weather has ruled out football for the past few weeks but, despite lack of practice, our players are taking part in the Five-a-Side Knock-out competition which takes place during the morning of Saturday, 3rd February indoors at the Spiceball Centre, Banbury. We wish them well.

Country Dancing will resume as soon as the weather improves and the dancers can remain after school. We have our sights on the Area Display which takes place in Oxford Town Hall.

The Puffin Book Club, run by Mr. Dunton, is becoming increasingly popular and we are very pleased that more pupils are taking advantage of the scheme, and grateful to parents for their practical support.

The Morris Dancing under Mr. Morgan is getting off to a good start despite the weather. We have acquired the proper willow sticks and we also have our own bells and pads. We hope to be able to rope in some willing volunteers to help us sew the rather complicated ribbon designs ready for next May.

W. Duxbury

DEDDINGTON PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The coming month will be busy, as it includes two events, as well as the half-term holiday - how quickly that has come round!

On SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY we have our VALENTINE BARN DANCE at the Adderbury Village Institute from 8 - 11 p.m. The ROLLRIGHT STONES will be providing music and entertainment, and there will be a buffet - and a bar from the King's Arms, Deddington. Tickets £1.50, available from school or Committee members.

On TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m. in the School Hall, Mr. Ruddock, Headmaster of the Warriner Comprehensive School, Bloxham, will be speaking about secondary education and the organization of a comprehensive school in a talk entitled 'New Broom ....' We look forward to welcoming parents and friends of the school at both these events.

Moya Hassan

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Our Sunday School Christmas Party was held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Saturday 13th January when 49 children sat down to a wonderful tea which was followed by games and prize giving. May I say a big thank you to teachers, parents and all those who helped to make it all so enjoyable.

Once again we are preparing for the National Christian Education Council scripture examination which takes place in March. 28 Scholars have entered this year and we are hoping to win the Shield which we only very narrowly missed last year, losing only by one point.

Eddie Lines

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* * *

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Not much has happened since the last newspaper as far as Scouts are concerned. They've been taking it easy (i.e. the Scouters have had a holiday, the grey hairs are coming through again). First of all the Scout Draw and Fair on 16th December. Thanks to all those people who supported us, we raised over £100 towards funds. (As Group Quartermaster, the bod in charge of the scout equipment, I can assure everyone the money will be well spent as soon as I get my hands on it).

From all Scouters, Scouts and Cubs, we would like to say a big Ta, with suitable touching of forelock and quick grovel to the following people who kindly (blackmailed) donated articles for our draw:-
D. J. H. Models of Banbury, King's Arms, Huntleys Picture Framers, Mr. and Mrs. Ackland, Deddington Pottery, Archway Garage, Holcombe Hotel, Hotel Russell, Mr. Garrett, Wallins Bakery, Hopcraft and Powell, Fritwell Butchers, Tuckers Stores, Haywards Stores, Mrs. Garvey, Mr. Welford, Mr. Drake, Mr. Philips, Mr. Wilkens and Mr. Stammers.

The list, I hope, is complete, and not in any order. These people, whatever the cause or organisation, seem always there with something. Thank you again. I have a complete list of prize-winners but it's a bit too long to print here. We still have a slight problem that prizes No. 9 (the meat voucher won by Mr. Rowland - ticket No. 1648) and No. 13 (the wine, won by Mr. Reed of Barton - ticket no. 0515) are both still outstanding. If anyone knows who they are, or better still if they could contact Mr. Stammers (Deddington 8198) they may get the prize before Easter.

This report does seem to go on and on, I'm getting writer's cramp (I've given up with the typewriter this month). The main problem, or one of them, about having a wife who writes the Guidey bit in the same newspaper is that she, being slightly (a lot) better organised regarding putting pen to paper, writes about the interesting bits first. She stole my thunder (again) about her life-saving act when the pipe at the Scout hut burst. With no thought for herself, without lifeline or buoyancy aids, fresh from her great two widths swim, she plunged into the raging foam to save all!!!

At this time, we have several of our Scouts doing their Fireman's Badge. They seem well able to start the fires, so with Albert Humphries' help and sufferance they may even learn to put some out. This is a joint venture with the Guides (I don't know if it will mean that more Scouts would want to go or not).

Blue Peter Stamp Appeal: Thank you from both Guides and Scouts for all the stamps and coins for the Medi-Bike Appeal. Somewhere in darkest Africa there is a bike part that is forever Deddington. The Appeal is due to end in the near future, so I'll now ask you to save all your stamps for the Brownies who have collected stamps all the year for the Guide Headquarters. The box, thanks to Mr. Garrett, will still have pride of place in the Post Office (with a changed label) for you to put your stamps in, or you could give them to any Brownie to collect. Thank you.

Alan Rampley

Because of work commitments, two of our Leaders are unable to continue running the Monday night pack meetings. Anyone interested in helping regularly, please contact Tony Welford on Deddington 441.

The WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be held in the Congregational Church, Deddington, on Friday 2nd March at 2.30 p.m. The theme this year is Spiritual Growth.

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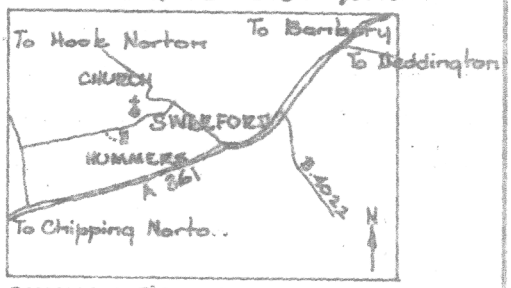

CHURCH END, SWERFORD, OXON.
Telephone Hook Norton 737440.

At 4.45 a.m. on Wednesday 17th January my wife and I were woken by a persistent ringing of the front door bell. Who could be ringing at that time in the night? Have I locked a guest out? Surely nobody would expect accommodation at that time of night, although it has happened nearly as late as that! I suppose I'd better go down or he'll wake the whole house. I approached the front door considering what sarcastic comment I would make to the ringer. I was confronted by two soldiers and I noticed from their cap badges that they were in the Royal Corps of Signals. My wrath ebbed a bit as I recollected my two years of service in Signals. However, I did not have much time for reminiscing as they were obviously in a hurry about something.

There was a car on fire behind the Guest House and I had better ring for the Fire Brigade and had I an extinguisher as they had just emptied theirs on it to no effect. I passed out a dry powder extinguisher and dialled 999. The call was quickly answered and then the soldiers were back for another extinguisher. I handed out the CO_2 this time and was warned that the fire was increasing and seemed likely to reach the fuel tank very soon. I next roused all the guests, we had seven at the time, and they assembled in the lounge. Jean got our eight year old son, Peter, up. One of the guests soon discovered that it was his car that was burning! Three water extinguishers went out to the soldiers who were now getting the fire a little controlled.

Albert Humphries of the Fire Service, living opposite, received a call on his alerter via the G.P.O. and the Kidlington Fire Headquarters - an elaborate way to knock your neighbour up! As he left his house he could see the flames and smoke which appeared to be coming from the back of the Guest House. He did not need to be told where the fire was. Within six minutes the Deddington Fire engine was on the scene and for the first time in their lives Donna and Mark Humphries were able to watch their Daddy fighting a fire.

The soldiers took a well earned breather and came in for a cup of tea. They had had an eventful journey from London on their way to Birmingham, as they had earlier had trouble with their own car.

The six firemen: Brian Franklin, Albert Humphries, Clifford Harper, John Haynes, Geoff Middleton and Val Smith, dealt with the car, which now had fifty gallons of water sprayed onto it. We are very grateful for their prompt action as the car was parked close up to the workshop doors for protection against frost and those doors would have made an easy entry for the fire into the house. I learned later that the fuel tank was three-quarters full!

At nearly 6.00 a.m. it seemed hardly worth going back to bed as I would be up at 6.30 to start the early breakfasts. Hartwells towed away the remains of the car, a year old Maxi, in the afternoon and I cleared up the mess. The car had been parked at 11.30 p.m. and two guests who drove in alongside it at 11.45 p.m. saw nothing wrong, so why it burst into flames five hours later is a mystery. We shall not allow parking so close to the house again - it's easy to be wise after the event.

Douglas Ward

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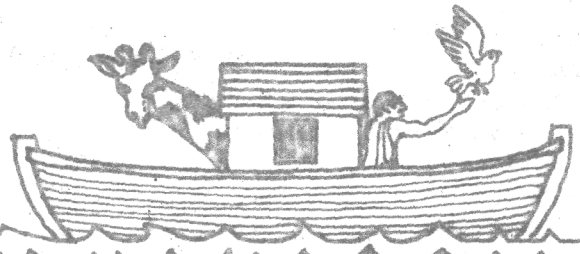
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES : Wide variety and good quality.
GENERAL GROCERIES : Wide range of dry, frozen and canned goods. Herbs and spices a speciality
CHEMIST : From Aspirins to Corn Pads.
WINES & SPIRITS : Good selection of Burgundies, and Clarets, German and Italian table wines.
DRY CLEANING : By Sherlocks of Oxford, twice weekly collections and deliveries.
WIDE SELECTION OF FROZEN FISH : Steaks, fillets and whole. Halibut and Salmon to order.



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PLAYGROUP

It seems a long time since December 2nd when we held our Christmas Bazaar, which, despite the weather and other bazaars held on the same day, was a success. We would like to thank the following traders for their generous donations of prizes for the Christmas Draw:-
Tuckers Stores, Hopcraft and Powell, Haywards Stores, Jones' Deddington Saleroom, Plumbe's Archway Garage, Shirley Hairdresser, Sanders' Ice-cream Parlour, Wallins' Bakery, Melanie and Jonathan Hughes-Jones' Pottery, Michael and Heather Ackland Jewellers, King's Arms, Holcombe Hotel, K. Garrett and Son, Russell Hotel, Crown and Tuns, Huntleys' Picture Framers, Dodds' Hempton Stores. Our grateful thanks to them all, and also to the many parents who have donated towards the hampers, and individual prizes.

At their Christmas Party held on Friday 15th December, the children were very happily occupied by a film show and other activities, including tea and a visit from Father Christmas.

Now a new term has begun and we welcome all our new children to Playgroup, and hope their parents will share an interest with us in what we do. Happy New Year to everyone.

Carol Langstaff, Secretary

DEDDINGTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The annual Christmas party for members' children took place at the Club on Saturday December 16th, this being for children 12 years and under. 98 children enjoyed a lovely tea, and this was followed by an excellent film show. Each child was given a small gift on leaving.

The success of the party was mainly due to the helpers and we thank Mrs. G. Reason, Mrs. E. Green, Mrs. J. Lewis, Mrs. R. Spencer, Mrs. F. Turnbull, Mrs. N. West, Mrs. E. Brain, and Mrs. D. Mitchell, for doing such a good job. Grateful thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. W. Hirons for purchasing and collecting the food.

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Result of 1978 Poppy Day Collection:

House to House Collection	£193.38.
British Legion Club Donation	£ 40.00.
Poppy Day Draw	£ 10.50.
Church Collection	£ 50.12.
	£294.00.

Arthur Lewis, Hon. Secretary

HOLLY TREE CLUB

Our Christmas party was held on Wednesday December 13th. We enjoyed the meal, and afterwards we were entertained by "Bridie", done so well by Mrs. Edmonds and Mrs. Johnson. Then a talented young group sang songs and carols, in which we joined in. Mrs. Shrewsbury made a delicious iced cake, served with wine, at the end. It was the first year without our late President, Mrs. Collin, and we missed her very much. Her kindness will never be forgotten, and Deddington is not the same without her.

Florence Anderson

DEDDINGTON BROWNIES

We were very grateful to all the parents who came and supported the Christmas entertainment we put on for them, and it was very nice to see the Scout hut so full - even if it did not leave much room for performing!

The North Aston Brownies have invited us to join their meeting on February 23rd for a "Thinking Day" party at Steeple Aston Village Hall from 5.30 - 7 p.m. As a result we will not have a meeting on February 20th, but will go there instead. Nearer the time I will organise transport, and I will be very glad of any offers.

Now that the Blue Peter stamp appeal has ended, the Brownies will continue to collect for Oxfordshire's Jubilee House which belongs to the Girl Guides. If you have any stamps we will gladly have them. Please give them to any Brownie or Guide, or I will fetch them if you let me know.

Vivien Pleydell-Bouverie

HOLLY TREE CLUB

On Wednesday, January 17th, we went to New Theatre Oxford to see the pantomime 'Aladdin'. Weather was rough, but Mr. Lines (our Chairman) took us by car to the coach in the Market Square. On arrival we were so eager to get into the warmth of the Theatre that the auditorium was not open, so we made a bee-line to the refreshment room, where hot drinks were being served.

We had good seats facing the centre of the stage, and the usherettes were very helpful to both young and old. It was a modern version of Aladdin, but we still had our Prince Charming and Dame. We settled down to the magic and fantasy, so reminiscent of our childhood days, well away from the Arctic weather and crazy world outside.

The show catered for all ages, most of the players were young and refreshing, and the comics were really funny. Little and Large lived up to their good performance on the telly, and Norman Collier, as Widow Twankey, had even the other actors laughing at his antics. Charlie Cairoli has always been a much loved clown over the years, for both young and not so young. Patsy Ann Scott made a charming young Aladdin, and John Gower, as Abanazar, got his full share of boo-ing from the children in the audience. Paul and Peta Page thrilled us with their Hot Dogs.

Scenery and lighting were delightful and the sound effects so good, we were kept jumping in our seats (no chance of a doze for us old-uns). It was a jolly good show, and with the coach on hand outside, we had no thought for the weather or politics.

Florence Anderson, Mackley Close

WHAT'S ON

February	7:	D. Ladies' meeting, 8 p.m. Holly Tree: Mike Swann
	10:	PTA Valentine Barn Dance, Adderbury, 8 p.m.
	13:	Warriner Head at Primary School 7.45 p.m.
	17:	Warriner School Dance, Bloxham School.
	22:	Mothers' Union meeting, 8 p.m. Holly Tree.
	23:	Brownies Thinking Day Party, Steeple Aston 5.30 p.m.
	27:	Mothers' Union Ploughman's Lunch 12.45, Holly Tree.
March	2:	Women's World Day of Prayer, 2.30 p.m. Congregational Church.